

Get Ready for September! How to Ace the Job Interview!



Preparing for a job interview can be a daunting experience, but with preparation and the right attitude you can separate yourself from the pack and tip the scales in your favour.

Business is all about meaningful connections, and taking the time to dig deep into the company and position requirements will be worth the effort. Doing the research is one thing, but how you present yourself and your accomplishments will be key towards a successful hiring decision.

Here are 8 tips to help you get ready for September – and ace the job interview!

Research the Company

This might seem like a no brainer but it's essential to make the effort and do your research. Not only will it give you insight into whether the company aligns with your own interests and values, it will also show the interviewer you are motivated and serious about becoming a part of their team.

Do a Google search. Look at the profiles of any hiring managers on LinkedIn. Take a look at any social media feeds to see what's new. During your research, see if you can find anything personal about the hiring manager. Do you have any common interests? Have you worked for any similar companies in the past? This approach will help to build an emotional connection with the hiring manager and might just advance you from candidate to that of a serious prospect.

Tell a Story

Most people fear the dreaded question "Tell me about yourself." Instead of the standard response, share a brief and engaging story highlighting a defining moment in your career. This will help you stand out and create a lasting impression with the interviewer.

Facts are one thing, but stories resonate as they create a shared emotion between the speaker and the audience. Highlight stories that showcase your experiences – especially those that feature teamwork and passion.

Prepare for Potential Questions in Advance

Be sure to come prepared with solid answers to potential questions. Most job interviews follow a similar pattern so take the time to google the most common interview questions.

Some typical interview questions include: What is your biggest strength? What is your biggest weakness? Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Describe a time when you made a mistake and what you did to fix it. Tell me about a challenge you overcame.

Taking the time now to prepare and rehearse will increase your odds of acing the interview.

Check your Tech for Remote Interviews

Following the onset of the pandemic, it seems that remote work is here to stay. Today many companies hold a remote interview prior to an in person interview. Making a good impression is equally important on a remote interview as many things can go wrong. Prior to the interview, test out your equipment with a friend. Is there a fuzzy connection? Is the lighting bright enough? Be sure you have an uncluttered background and that the webcam is at eye level. Don't wear distracting clothing or jewellery. Get rid of any background noise to minimize the chance of any sudden surprises.

Taking the time to get it right in advance will highlight you in the best possible way and make your interview memorable for all the right reasons.

Bring Key Documents to the Interview

Whether in person or remote, it's always a good idea to bring copies of key documents to the interview. You might want to refer to the information and, if in person, the interviewer may have forgotten the document. Having the information on hand makes you look prepared and organized. If you have a portfolio (digital or print) bring that as well. It's a great way to showcase your skills and achievements.

Ask Good Questions

Almost every interviewer asks if you have any questions. Asking insightful questions demonstrates your interest and engagement. Always come prepared and include some open ended questions. Take a deep dive into the company and show that you respect the interviewer's opinion and perspective.

Samples of questions might include: What challenges could this position help solve? Could you describe a typical day in this job? How would success be measured in this role? Is this a new position and, if so, what were the reasons it was created?

Don't Forget to Say Thank You

Follow up the interview with a thank you note. This can be by email, or if you really want to stand out feel free to mail in a thank you card! Personalize it and send it within 24 hours of the interview. Mention specific points brought up during the interview to reinforce your interest in the position. Not everyone takes this step – so sending a note will help you stand out as a strong candidate.

Be Yourself

It's difficult to be under pressure, but try to relax and be yourself. Don't forget that you're also taking the time to interview them as a prospective employer, so you want to be sure it will be a good fit. If you feel it's appropriate, don't be afraid to show your sense of humour. It might help to lighten the mood a little and ease a bit of tension on both sides.

When it comes to job interviews, there's no silver bullet in terms of what to do or what not to do to get the job. Whatever the situation, it's best to be prepared and put your best face forward. Take into account these key tips and you'll be sure to transform yourself from a prospect to a successful hire in no time. Good luck!

